

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Minister: Rev. Jon Rehmus

Organist: Morgan Markel

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

A Sufi parable teaches to dig one deep well, not a number of shallow ones. I think this very true for our personal, daily practices of seeking Spirit, enlightenment, wisdom, God, however we may think about finding meaning, peace, and fulfillment.

Yet I also believe our common practice can be—perhaps should be—open to the wisdom and spirit-paths of the world. Differing faith traditions open up differing ways of seeing, adding complexity and the possibility of greater depth to our own practice and self-understanding.

So we once more embark this fall on a multi-faith exploration with our 1st and 3rd Sunday services. On September 4, we celebrate the “Water Communion,” a ritual developed by women’s circles within Unitarian Universalism. Two weeks later on the 18th, Buddhist teacher Stacey Mackowiak will join me in leading a service grounded in her practice.

On October 2, we reflect on the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, that begins that evening, followed by a service on October 16 co-led by Josh Wachtel using again the small-group sharing characterizing his Restorative Practices work. The first Sunday of November, Sarah Stockwell-Arthen helps lead our annual Samhein ritual, Thanksgiving’s braid with “civil religion” is lifted up on Nov. 20, and then we enter our December focus on Advent and lead-up to Christmas Eve.

Our personal well of spirituality can deepen by our exploration of different practices and ideas. If you will allow me to mix metaphors, ‘tis a many-faceted crystal that best reveals the many colors within us.

In faith and service,
Jon

September At the Village Church

September 8, 15, 22, 29—Yoga 4–5:30 PM and Meditation, 5:45–6:15 PM

September 4—Service 10 AM

September 9—NO FNC, Hilltown Chautauqua that night (see page 2 for details)

September 16—Village Church Community Dinner, Raffle & Conversation. The Jam moves to John & Peg’s home this week. Call 634-5398 for details.

September 18—Service 10 AM

September 23—FNC—Radio Fee Earth—Crossover music served hot

Ministry Hours and Peaceful Thursdays

From Rev. Jon: I will be in Cummington most Thursdays and am happy to schedule appointments as early as breakfast (though afternoon is preferable). Tuesday afternoon is also a time in addition to 1st & 3rd Sundays after lunch when I can often make in-person appointments. I am also glad to talk by phone, and please do call, 413-624-3025, and leave a message if there is an emergency or you seek 24-hour turn-around. I do not check email every day.

Thursdays at 4ish you can find me at our lovely church. This fall-winter, Darlene Graham and I again invite you to sow awareness and peace into your approach to the weekend with these body-mind exercises:

Yoga from 4:00 to 5:30 PM and Silent meditation from 5:45 to 6:15 PM will start again on Thursday September 8. Feel free to attend either program or both. Bell ringing—to remind us of mindfulness as a community—is at 6:30. But even if only hearing that, take a deep breath and go into your weekend right!

Village Church Community Dinner, Conversation & Raffle

Everyone in the community is invited to the Village Church Vestry on Friday, September 16 at 7 PM, where a simple soup and bread dinner will be provided to all. We are celebrating several years of development as the church has worked to reconsider and solidify its place in the village of Cummington and the larger community.

Nearly four years ago, we held a dinner and invited the community to share their perceptions of the church and the role they hoped the church could play in the life of Cummington. We would like to revisit and continue that conversation by asking for your input again about how we are doing, how we can best serve the community going forward and what ways you might like to participate with us. We will cap the evening with a raffle drawing for a beautiful quilt and many other donated items. Please join us!

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Susan Riley at 634-8055, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041 or Pat Keith 634-5084 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 634-5084. The church charges a very nominal fee to cover upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Hilltown Chautauqua

The Hilltown Chautauqua of Western Massachusetts explores pressing issues of American life in curated, magazine-format programs with speakers, panels, debates, interviews, and musical and dramatic performances.

In early September, the Wistaria String Quartet and other artists will participate in two concerts, both at the Bryant Homestead in Cummington.

The first is an evening concert (Friday, Sept. 9) of popular and classical music, with Hilltown and Pioneer Valley singers and ensembles offering folk, Americana, Celtic, Latin American, as well as the Wistaria String Quartet, Jose Gozalez and the Criolla Clasico, the well known Americana-world music performers Tim Eriksen and Zoe Darrow, and the Pioneer Valley's Celtic band, Banish Misfortune.

This is a family event with Louisiana-style barbecue provided by Elmer's Store in Ashfield, and tethered balloon rides. All to celebrate the arrival of Chautauqua after months of planning.

The Sept. 9 concert will serve as a "curtain raiser" for Earthcare, a two-day festival and symposium, on Sept. 10 and 11, that will celebrate the wonders of Nature and explore the human relationship to the Earth in a time of climate crisis.

Our first program, Earthcare: The Sense of Wonder, on September 10 and 11, 2016, is an eco-festival and symposium in Cummington that celebrates the wonders of Nature and looks hard at the changing human relationship to the Earth in the era of climate change. The main festival day includes talks by national figures in ecology, forestry, sociology, and environmental journalism, including Alan Weisman, Juliet Schor, Lauret Savoy, Linda Maloof, as well as poetry readings, dance, an art exhibition (the watercolors of Walt Cudnohufsky), and, as the climax of the day, an evening performance by Kaiulani Lee in her moving one-woman play about the early environmental crusader, Rachel Carson, "The Sense of Wonder." The play finds Carson confronting her destiny amid the public clamor and criticism of her indictment of chemical pesticides, "Silent Spring."

Living Fully, Aging Gracefully

A Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully and Befriending Death is forming and is open and welcoming to all residents of the Hilltowns. Newcomers are welcome.

The group will meet once a month on Tuesday afternoons, the second Tuesday, from 1-3 PM at the Cummington Community House Library, Main Street starting Tuesday, May 10th.

For further information please contact Wynne or Lucy 413 634-5576 wynlucy@verizon.net or Annie annieb@crocker.com.

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the October issue is September 25, 2016. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrbllooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entry-way of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Visit the FNC—<http://cummingtonvillagechurch.org/FNC.html>

Visit our website at cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Art Show

Heart of the Hilltowns II," an exhibition of 50 new oil portraits painted by Jeanne Johns, will open with a reception on October 7, 2016, from 7 to 9 PM at the Cummington Community House.

Ms. Johns has painted this new series of portraits of Hilltown people who have contributed to the cultural community this past year. This is her second exhibit. The oil panels are painted during a lively conversation between the painter and model lasting around 2 hours.

The exhibition is funded by The Massachusetts Council for the Arts. Ten percent of the proceeds will go to the West Cummington Congregational Church.

The show continues until October 31st. Everyone is welcome.

"A Fiery and Still Voice" Is Still at the Homestead

William Cullen Bryant Living History Play

Join the Enchanted Circle Theater and the Trustees at the Bryant Homestead for a unique living history experience. Past and present converge in this 30-minute dramatic performance. It's 1866 and literary, conservation and political ideas are flourishing.

Get to know the man behind the poet and experience the homestead come to life. This is for ages 12 and up. Wear walking shoes. The show occurs rain or shine. September performances:

Saturday, September 3rd—11 AM, 12 PM & 1 PM

Saturday, September 17th—11 AM, 12 PM & 1 PM

Saturday, September 24th—11 AM, 12 PM & 1 PM



Tickets: Trustees Members \$9, Nonmembers

\$15. For more information contact acaluori@the.trustees.org or call 413-628-4485 X3. To reserve your tickets please visit www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do/pioneer-valley.

Lunch Bunch

The Cummington Ladies Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Ozzie's in Hinsdale on September 14 for their monthly get together.

A carpool will leave the Village Church at noon. Contact Edith at 634-5557 for more information.

FRIDAY NIGHT CAFE

9/9 Hilltown Chautauqua—No FNC—Come to Bryant Homestead instead for a night of music & food. Many cafe musicians & others perform. Info & tix at hilltownchautauqua.org

9/16 Village Church Community Dinner, Raffle & Conversation The Jam moves to John & Peg's home this week. Call 634-5398 for details.

9/23 Radio Free Earth. Josh & Kim Wachtel kick off the season with Crossover Music served hot.



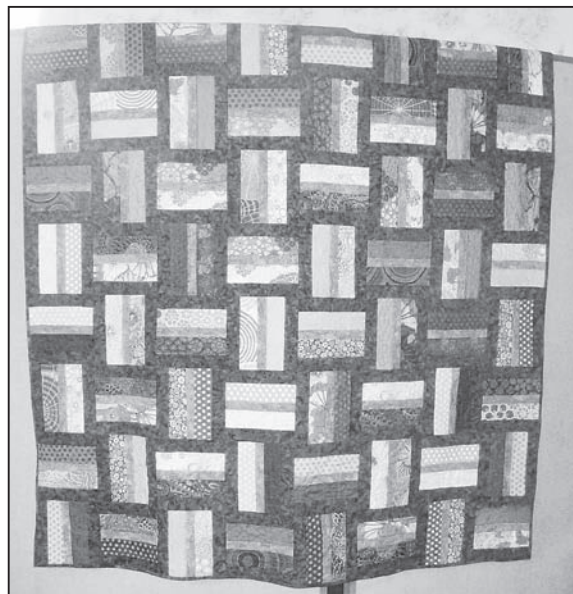
Some of the performers from the past season.



Village Church Raffle

Some of the wonderful things are being raffled off by the Village Church—a quilt, pottery, art. The raffle is to help buy a new more efficient furnace to replace our old burner. At left Kathy Harrison is shown on the porch of the Cummington Fair's Exhibit Hall where the Village church was set up to show our prizes and sell tickets. Thanks to all who volunteered to spend time there during the fair.

Call Kathy Harrison at 634-5631 for more details, to buy tickets, or volunteer to sell some tickets.



Busy Summer at the Village Church

Once again the Greenwood Music Camp campers came to grace the church with music and fun during their five-week stay in Cummington. We were delighted to spend one special Sunday while the campers were here with our friends from the West Cummington Congregational Church.

Also, we shared a beautiful service “on the hill,” at the site of the original Church in Cummington, with the folks from WCCC. This was our fourth time together up there, in what is becoming a tradition.



Above left: The combined VC and WCCC congregations with parents of the campers. Right: A string quartet opens the service.



Left: Rev. Steve Philbrick addresses the combined congregations. Below left: Rev. Jon Rehmus leads the group in song. Below right: The service under the tent.



Hilltown Residents Invited to Plan for a Healthier Region

On September 19th and 21st, Healthy Hampshire, in partnership with the Hilltown Community Health Center (HCHC) and the Hilltown Community Development Corporation (HCDC), will host a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) to facilitate a series of meetings focused on increasing opportunities for healthy eating and active living in 10 Hilltown communities.

Healthy Hampshire is a collaboration among local leaders, businesses, community-based organizations, and residents, focused on improving health by promoting access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity. Part of the Mass in Motion statewide initiative through the MA Department of Public Health, Healthy Hampshire is administered by the City of Northampton in partnership with the Collaborative for Educational Services.

Healthy Hampshire will support HCHC's prevention work by developing community-based strategies to increase access to healthy food and physical activity in the 10 Hilltowns of Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Russell and Worthington.

Two community forums will be held on Monday, September 19th for the SDAT to hear from Hilltown residents—one at Gateway Regional High School in Huntington and the other at the Cummington Community House. Both sessions will take place from 6:30—8:30 PM. Residents from the 10 towns are welcome and encouraged to attend whichever session is most convenient for them.

Visit VC Church website at cummingtonvillagechurch.org

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Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

If you would like an electronic copy instead of a paper one, include your email on the form below and we will email the Goodwill Messenger to you.

Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to Cummington senior citizens

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

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